



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/788,420	02/21/2001	Oh Nam Kwon	8733,388.00	5851
30827 7590 08/20/2008 MCKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP 1900 K STREET, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20006				
EXAMINER RUDE, TIMOTHY L				
ART UNIT 2871		PAPER NUMBER		
MAIL DATE 08/20/2008		DELIVERY MODE PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/788,420

Applicant(s)

KWON ET AL.

Examiner

TIMOTHY RUDE

Art Unit

2871

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 April 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 and 11-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 11-28 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 27 and 28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 October 2007 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/C)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claims

Claim 1 is amended. Claim 28 is added.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was

not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

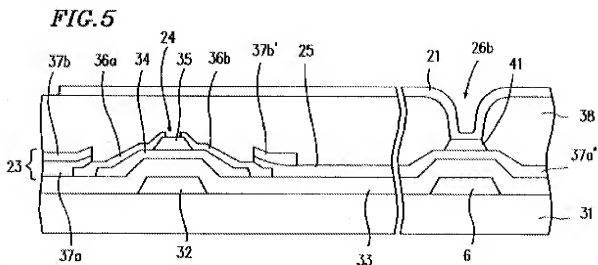
Claims 1-9 and 27-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art (APA).

As to claims 1, 8-9, and 28, AAPA discloses a liquid crystal display (LCD) device (Fig. 1E) having a substrate (10), first conductive layers (12A and 14A) on the substrate, a first insulating layer (16) having a contact hole (above 14A) exposing a portion of the first conductive layers (allowing electrical connection to 14A via contact hole above 14A); a semiconductor layer (18) on the first insulating layer [Applicant's first conductive layers – correction is recommended, although not required]; second conductive layers (20) on the semiconductor layer, third conductive layers, (22A and 24A), on the second conductive layers, a second insulating layer (26) on the third conductive layers, the second insulating layer having a first contact hole exposing a portion of the third conductive layers (contact hole for pixel electrode) and a second contact hole (hole for 30) exposing the portion of the first conductive layers exposed by the first insulating layer, a fourth conductive layer (28) on the second insulating layer and electrically contacting a portion of the third conductive layers, and a fifth conductive layer (30) on the second insulating layer and electrically contacting the first conductive layers through the second contact hole; and sixth conductive layers, (24B and 14B), between and in

contact with both the exposed portion of the third conductive layers (24A) and the fourth conductive layer, (28), and between and in contact with both the first conductive layers, (14A), and the fifth conductive layer, (30), wherein the sixth conductive layers are formed in the first contact hole and in the contact hole of the first insulating layer [sixth layers 24B and 14B exist at the bottoms of (Applicant's formed in) the contact holes]. Please note, this is a device claim whereby "formed in" is considered to limit where structure is as opposed to how it got there. Also, something that is at the bottom of a hole is reasonably considered to be in the hole.

APA does not explicitly disclose an embodiment wherein the sixth conductive layers are exclusively and entirely contained at the bottoms of the first contact hole and the bottom of the contact hole of the first insulating layer.

Tagusa teaches at Figure 5 an embodiment wherein such a metal layer, 41, may be deposited such that it is exclusively and entirely contained at the bottom of a contact hole, 26b, as an art recognized configuration suitable for the intended purpose of improving adhesion of the overlying conductive layer with the underlying conductive layer [col. 12, lines 4-34] which would improve yield and reliability [MPEP 2144.07].



Tagusa is evidence that workers of ordinary skill in the art would find the reason, suggestion, or motivation to form such a metal layer such that it is exclusively and entirely contained at the bottom of a contact hole as an art recognized configuration suitable for the intended purpose of improving adhesion of the overlying conductive layer with the underlying conductive layer [col. 12, lines 4-34] which would improve yield and reliability [MPEP 2144.07].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the reflective display invention of APA with the sixth metal layer(s) formed such that it is exclusively and entirely contained at the bottom of a contact hole as an art recognized configuration suitable for the intended purpose of improving adhesion of the overlying conductive layer with the underlying conductive layer [col. 12, lines 4-34] which would improve yield and reliability [MPEP 2144.07].

As to claims 2-3, APA discloses an LCD device as recited above where the first conductive layers include aluminum metal (Specification page 3, lines 1-4 and 18-23).

As to claim 4, APA discloses an LCD device as recited above where the second conductive layers (20) include an impurity-doped semiconductor (Specification page 3, lines 4-7).

As to claims 5-6, APA discloses an LCD device as recited above where the third conductive layers have first (22A) and second (24A) parts that include metal and in between the first and second parts is where the semiconductor is etched (Specification page 3, lines 10-12 and page 4, lines 1-4).

As to claim 7, APA discloses an LCD device as recited above where the fourth conductive layer includes a transparent electrode (Specification page 3, lines 14-17).

As to claim 27, APA discloses the device according to claim 1, wherein the first conductive layers are formed of a single metal, 12A and 14A, and the third conductive layers are formed of a single metal, 22A and 24A. Please also note, APA also teaches these structures may optionally be a single metal, an alloy, or a multi-layered structure, Specification, pages 3 and 4, as amended.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed on 08 April 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant's ONLY substantive arguments are as follows:

(1) Regarding base claim 1, applied prior art does not disclose limitations drawn to the location of the sixth conductive layers.

(2) Dependent claims are allowable because they directly or indirectly depend from an allowable base claim.

Examiner's responses to Applicant's ONLY arguments are as follows:

(1) It is respectfully pointed out that APA discloses the device comprising sixth conductive layers, (24B and 14B), between and in contact with both the exposed portion of the third conductive layers (24A) and the fourth conductive layer, (28), and between and in contact with both the first conductive layers, (14A), and the fifth conductive layer, (30), wherein the sixth conductive layers are formed in the first contact hole and in the contact hole of the first insulating layer [sixth layers 24B and 14B exist at the bottoms of (Applicant's formed in) the contact holes]. Please note, this is a device claim whereby "formed in" is considered to limit where structure is as opposed to how it got there. Also, something that is at the bottom of a hole is reasonably considered to be in the hole.

Tagusa teaches that such a metal layer, 41, may be deposited such that it is exclusively and entirely contained at the bottom of a contact hole, 26b, as an art

recognized configuration suitable for the intended purpose of improving adhesion of the overlying conductive layer with the underlying conductive layer [col. 12, lines 4-34, and Figure 5] which would improve yield and reliability [MPEP 2144.07], per rejections above.

(2) It is respectfully pointed out that in so far as Applicant has not argued rejection(s) of the limitations of dependent claim(s), Applicant has acquiesced said rejection(s).

Any references cited but not applied are relevant to the instant Application.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated any new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TIMOTHY RUDE whose telephone number is (571)272-2301. The examiner can normally be reached on Increased Flex Time Program.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nelms C. David can be reached on (571) 272-1787. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

tir

/TIMOTHY RUDE/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2871